

Regional Arts Fund – March Round 2017 Project Fund and Annual Event Fund

Feedback on applications for RAF grants

Applications for funding through the Regional Arts Fund Project Fund and Annual Event Fund closed on Friday, 17 March 2017. Assessment of applications by the Regional Arts Fund Panel took place on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 April 2017.

Overview Project Fund

- 33 eligible applications were received to the Project Fund, requesting a total of \$603,135
- Applications were received to the Project Fund from eight of the nine regions in Western Australia, including one from the Great Southern, two each from the Pilbara and Peel regions, 3 from the Goldfields-Esperance, 4 from the Mid-West, 5 from the Wheatbelt, 7 from the South West and 9 from the Kimberley.
- 14 (42%) of the 33 Project Fund applications were first time applicants.
- 87% of the Project Fund applications were rated B or above.
- 7 (21%) of the Project Fund applications were approved funding to a total of \$113,509

Overview Annual Event Fund

- 7 eligible applications were received to the Annual Event Fund, requesting a total of \$525,000
- Applications were received to the Annual Event Fund from four of the nine regions in Western Australia, including one each from the Gascoyne, Kimberley, and Great Southern, and four from the South West.
- 100% of the Annual Event Fund applications were rated B or above.
- 3 (42%) of the Annual Event Fund applications were approved funding to a total of \$225,000 (\$25,000 each per annum for three years).

Regional Arts Fund – October Round 2016	APPLICATIONS (No.)		APPLICATIONS (\$)	
	Received	Approved	Requested	Approved
Project Fund	33	7	\$603,135	\$113,509
Annual Event Fund	7	3	\$525,000	\$225,000

Overall Feedback

The Panel commented that this was a highly competitive round, with many deserving projects unable to be funded due to budget constraints. The funded projects met all criteria to a high degree and demonstrated developed applications.

The Panel commented that there were many excellent projects which would have great benefits to communities and individuals, however did not meet all criteria of the funding program applied to. The Panel encouraged applicants to carefully read funding program guidelines and determine whether the program is the best fit for their project.

The Panel commented that many applications considered the economic benefits of their projects for the wider community—for example through increased visitors using accommodation, local businesses—but did not include consideration of the economic benefits for the artistic community.

The Panel encouraged applicants to make use of the 'attachments to budget' tab in the budget template to include clarification of costs and a breakdown of fees and expenses. This information is vital for the Panel to properly assess value for money and effective use of resources. The Panel suggested wrapping the text in the budget notes cells to make it easily readable.

The Panel emphasised that letter of support need to demonstrate strong support for the project, rather than purely acknowledging project partnerships or elements. The Panel noted that letters of support need to be signed, and if coming from an organisation, submitted on the organisation's letterhead. The Panel trusts all letters to be correct and unfalsified, and notes that the Project Officer completes spot checks to verify letters of support before Panel assessment.

The Panel strongly encouraged all applicants to submit a draft to the Project Officer for review, and to have the draft reviewed by another person familiar with the project to pick up on mistakes. The Panel noted that is apparent when drafts have not been reviewed by the Project Officer, and in highly competitive rounds missing details or budget mistakes can make a significant difference to assessments.

The Panel suggested that applicants seek further information and insight into the Panel assessment process to further develop their understanding of grant writing.

The Panel encouraged applicants to use clear and plain language rather than jargon. The word limits should be used wisely to provide the Panel with the details needed to have a clear picture of the project.

The Panel noted that when the Project Fund is being applied for to support an event, applicants must consider the aims and focus of the Project Fund and whether the event has the same aims and focus.

Applicants are encouraged to consider the target audience of their projects, and whether the active and passive components of a community project target different audiences. It was noted that some projects could have strengthened their applications with a more specific target focus.

Applicants should include explanation of how their project's chosen thematic basis is relevant to the community and how it was decided upon/developed.

The Panel suggested that projects with capacity building aims consider including young artists and the youth community to achieve long-term benefits in this area.

The Panel noted that applicants should factor in royalty payments and licensing fees when project planning.

For more information on the RAF program please contact Tegan Morey, Regional Arts Development Officer at Country Arts WA on 9200 6200 or email tmorey@countryartswa.asn.au

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

PROJECT FUND

Arts Narrogin Inc |\$17,005

Wheatbelt

Talk from the Town: The Narrogin Elders Project

Arts Narrogin will engage multi-platform theatre company The Kabuki Drop to engage the local senior community in telling their personal stories in a theatre performance. The project will tap into the wisdom and humour of diverse groups of local senior citizens to offer an intimate and interactive audience experience. The project aims to encourage dialogue and foster respect for elders in the community, and to examine the regional identity of the Narrogin community as a whole.

Arts & Cultural Development Council of Geraldton |\$18,889

Mid-West

Hard Pressed 2017

Hard Pressed 2017 is an expansion on a pilot project run in 2016. Mid-West artists, schools, community, and arts groups will design and create large-scale woodcuts using different mark-making methods, the result of an extensive workshop series including session run in Esperance, Ravensthorpe, and Katherine, NT. Woodcuts from all locations will be printed in a public space during the October festival season in Geraldton using a road-roller. This will be the main spectacle of the project. Community members can participate in the inking up process or observe. The prints will then exhibit in Geraldton, Esperance and Fremantle with accompanying floor talks.

Creative Albany |\$5,865

Great Southern

Southern Regional String Project

Creative Albany's Southern Regional String Project will benefit several regional string communities, providing the opportunity to support a unique ten-day visit by internationally respected and highly experienced Violin/Violist Professor Brian Finlayson to work in intensive and collaborative partnership with key community orchestras, string players and groups in the regions of Peel, South West and Great Southern. It focuses on delivering a high level of artistic input and practical instruction through ensemble rehearsals, solo masterclasses and workshops for a majority of extra-curricular school string students, local amateur musicians and music teachers.

Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre |\$26,790

Kimberley

KALACC 2017 Regional Cultural Festival

The Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC) will be holding our ninth festival this year, the KALACC 2017 Regional Cultural Festival. A celebration of Kimberley Aboriginal dance, art, politics and culture, this event more than any other reflects our cultural maintenance mission as the region's peak body for Indigenous law and culture. This is ensured through the application of five key strategies: Ceremonial and Traditional Practices, including repatriation of ancestral remains and sacred items; Intergenerational cultural

exchange programs to pass on culture to youth; Festivals, performance and tours; Indigenous employment in the cultural economy; and Governance, advocacy and awareness-raising.

Shire of Manjimup |\$9,560

South West

I'm a South West Exhibitionist

The Shire of Manjimup will provide local South West artists with a ten-month professional development project to provide practical tools and tangible promotion opportunities. The project aims to increase the income potential of the region's artists and support sustainable and diverse creative career pathways. Paula Silbert will be engaged to run an intensive two-day workshop specifically tailored to up-skilling emerging, mid-career and established regional visual artists and craft practitioners. Participants work collaboratively with each other and a project Mentor to build upon the skills learned by developing a series of exhibitions and pop-up installations showcasing their work.

Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council |\$20,400

Goldfields-Esperance

Papa Tales

Papa Tales will bring the unique artwork of Tjanpi Desert Weavers to life in the form of a short film. A collaboration between Tjanpi artists, filmmakers Jonathan Daw and Anna Cadden and Tjanpi artworker Cynthia Burke, will use stop-motion animation and live action video to tell the tale of contemporary community life and the special role that dogs play in remote desert communities. The intricately constructed sculptures of Tjanpi Desert Weavers, woven from locally harvested grasses, will be animated by hand to capture the unique and often amusing personality of community dogs and their relationship with Yarnangu.

Broome Aboriginal Media Association Aboriginal Corporation |\$15,000

Kimberley

Freedom - A New Goolarri Writers Project

Broome Aboriginal Media Association, through Goolarri Media, will build on their history of hosting tailored Indigenous writers programs aimed at evolving the skills of emerging Kimberley writers. The 2017 project will aim to accelerate local writers' development with a collective project to create a first draft of a new work exploring the aftermath of the 1967 Referendum. Under expert guidance the writers will work collaboratively to contribute to a script with a narrative is set in a contemporary remote north-west town, culminating in a public reading with professional actors with the ultimate aim of a professional production.

ANNUAL EVENT FUND

Arts Margaret River |\$75,000 (\$25,000 pa)

South West

Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival

The Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival is a three-day storytelling spectacular featuring up to 50 writers & presenters. Each year it attracts visitors from WA and interstate, providing economic and community benefits. It is the biggest regional literary event in Western Australia and aims to foster a love of arts within the community. The festival is

multi-dimensional, with author talks, interviews, Q&A sessions, panel discussions, book signings, a 'Festival Workshop Series', opportunities for emerging writers and self-published authors as well as activities to bring stories to life in many forms.

Nannup Music Festival |\$75,000 (\$25,000 pa)

South West

Nannup Music Festival

The Nannup Music Festival is an annual 4 day music festival, running continuously on the WA Labor Day weekend since 1989. The festival includes live music, bush poetry, interactive activities, workshops, presentations, and non-music art activities across a range of ticketed and free venues. The Festival attracts audiences and artists from the local region, state-wide, nationally, and internationally, and includes over 90 acts. The festival has an Emerging Artist Award, a strong Indigenous component, a strong family friendly focus, and a strong environmental focus.

Gascoyne in May Inc |\$75,000 (\$25,000 pa)

Gascoyne

Gascoyne in May

Gascoyne in May is a series of community arts festivals staged in the isolated North West. The festival includes a 2700km tour of the region, staging 17 events at 6 festivals over 6 weeks. The festivals deliver 23 mentorships and facilitate 72 workshops. Gascoyne in May includes the Gascoyne River Music Festival in Gascoyne Junction, Barefoot Black Tie in Shark Bay, Festival of the Reef in Coral Bay, Festival of Fire in Burringurrah, TropiCOOL in Carnarvon and the Ningaloo Whaleshark Festival in Exmouth.

This program is proudly funded by



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Regional Arts Fund